

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05

L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-01 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 SAJ-01 /105 W

----- 110973

R 311253Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7804

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 01512

E.O.11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: ETRD, EEC, GATT, UK

SUBJECT: MTN AND AGRICULTURE

REF: (A) STATE 20100, STATE 21477

SUMMARY: THE BRITISH WILL OOOOSE THE FRENCH ATTEMPT

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TO MAKE THE COMMUNITY'S MTN GUIDELINES STATE THAT

AGRICULTURE SHOULD BE DEALT WITH IN ONE COMMITTEE TO THE EXCLUSION OF ALL OTHERS. HOWEVER, THE UK DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT THE COMMUNITY WOULD BE WILLING AT THIS TIME TO AGREE TO ANYTHING BETTER THAN THE FEBRUARY 1974 COMPROMISE ON THIS ISSUE. BRITISH OFFICIALS STRESS THAT NONE OF THE MEMBER STATES WANT A PROCEDURAL ROW NOW, AND NO ONE WOULD BE RECEPTIVE IF THE US RAISED THIS ISSUE AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE AT THE FEBRUARY 11 TNC MEETING. A HEAD-ON COLLISION WOULD MERELY HARDEN THE FRENCH POSITION. THE BRITISH RECOMMEND PROCEEDING FOR THE TIME BEING ON THE BASIS OF THE FEBRUARY 1974 COMPROMISE, AND TRYING TO IMPROVE ON IT OVER TIME, ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. END SUMMARY

1. ECONCOMMIN CALLED ON ROY DENMAN (DEPUTY SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF TRADE) ON JANUARY 31 AND CARRIED OUT INSTRUCTIONS REFTELS.

2. DENMAN SAID THAT THE UK "CANNOT ACCEPT" THE FRENCH AMENDMENT TO THE DRAFT MTN GUIDELINES, WHICH STATES THAT AGRICULTURE SHOULD BE DEALT WITH IN ONE COMMITTEE "TO THE EXCLUSION OF ALL OTHERS." DENMAN CALLED THIS FRENCH POSITION "PLAIN BLOODY SILLY," AND SAID THAT TRADE MINISTER SHORE WILL OPPOSE THE FRENCH AMENDMENT IF IT IS RAISED AT THE FEBRUARY 10 MEETING OF THE EC COUNCIL.

3. THE UK, DENMAN SAID, BELIEVES THAT THE MTN SHOULD PROCEED ON THE BASIS OF THE US-EC COMPROMISE ON THE TREATMENT OF AGRICULTURE THAT WAS REACHED IN FEBRUARY 1974. DENMAN AGREED WITH ECONCOMMIN'S POINT THAT THIS COMPROMISE WAS NOT SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN A PERMANENT SOLUTION, BUT AT THE PRESENT TIME, HE SAID, THERE IS "NOT MUCH PROSPECT OF GETTING ANYTHING BETTER."

4. DENMAN EMPHASIZED THAT NONE OF THE MEMBER STATES WOULD BE RECEPTIVE IF THE /USS RAISED THE QUESTION OF HOW TO TREAT AGRICULTURE AS A POINT OF PRINCIPLE AT THE FEBRUARY 11 TNC MEETING. THE "WORST THING THAT COULD HAPPEN" NOW THAT THE MTN ARE FINALLY BEGINNING, CONFIDENTIAL

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WOULD BE A PROCEDURAL ROW OVER THIS ISSUE. A HEAD-ON COLLISION ON DOCTRINAL GROUNDS WOULD MERELY HARDEN

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SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 SAJ-01 /105 W

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R 311253Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7805

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 01512

THE FRENCH POSITION.

5. OVER TIME, DENMAN BELIEVES THAT THE DIFFERENCES
BETWEEN THE US AND THE COMMUNITY CAN BE WORKED OUT
PRAGMATICALLY. THE BRITISH BELIEVE THAT THE AGRICUL-
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TURE COMMITTEE SHOULD HAVE "GENERAL OVERSIGHT," AND SHOULD DEAL WITH MAJOR ISSUES, BUT IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO DISCUSS CERTAIN DETAILED AGRICULTURAL QUESTIONS ELSEWHERE. THE ASSIGNMENT OF SPECIFIC ISSUES TO OTHER COMMITTEES COULD BE WORKED OUT OVER TIME ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.

6. AG ATTACHE ALSO RAISED PROBLEM OF HOW TO TREAT AGRICULTURE IN THE MTN WITH J.H.V. DAVIES, UNDER SECRETARY AT THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD. DAVIES REPLIED ALONG THE SAME LINES AS DENMAN.

7. DENMAN WILL LEAD THE UK DELEGATION AT THE TNC MEETING. HE WILL GO TO GENEVA FROM BRUSSELS ON FEBRUARY 10 AFTER THE EC COUNCIL HAS DISCUSSED THE MTN GUIDELINES. PETER GENT (ASSISTANT SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF TRADE) WILL BE IN GENEVA FEBRUARY 10. DAVIES WILL ALSO BE ON THE UK DELEGATION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMITTEES, AGRICULTURAL AGREEMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS, AGRICULTURAL POLICIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LONDON01512
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750036-0556
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975013/aaaaacfg.tel
Line Count: 192
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 20100, 75 STATE 21477
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 APR 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <10 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MTN AND AGRICULTURE
TAGS: ETRD, UK, FR, US, EEC, GATT, MTN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006